



Lilac Newsletter

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INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY

INTERNATIONAL LILAC SOCIETY is a non-profit corporation comprised of individuals who share a particular interest, appreciation and fondness for lilacs. Through exchange of knowledge, experience and facts gained by members it is helping to promote, educate and broaden public understanding and awareness.

Articles printed in this publication are the views and opinions of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent those of the editor or the *International Lilac Society*.

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MEMBERSHIP CLASSIFICATION

Single annual	\$ 10.00
Family	12.50
Sustaining	20.00
Institutional/Commercial	25.00
Life	150.00

*Mail membership dues to I.L.S. Secretary



RUTH ELLEN STAMPE

Ruth Ellen Stampe, age 72, 2227 Lorton Ave., Davenport, Iowa, died at St. Lukes Hospital, Davenport, Iowa on July 20, 1987 at 1:30 a.m. after a long battle with cancer.

She was a member of the International Lilac Society, American Peony Society, American Rose Society and a charter member of the Mississippi Valley Rose Society; past president and life member of the Davenport Horticultural Society, through which she was the instigator for the creation of the "Stampe Lilac Garden" in Duck Creek Park, Davenport, for which she received local and international recognition.

The beautiful gazebo in the lilac garden was the result of her ideas and vision in making the garden a more enjoyable spot for all -- a truly lovely legacy for the community. She not only loved beauty, she created it -- both in her surroundings and in the people she loved.

She and her husband celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on June 12. Survivors include her husband, two sons: David, University of Hawaii at Honolulu, and Dennis, University of Wisconsin at Madison; her mother, Mrs. Donald P. Zollars and one brother, Donald F. Zollars of Pensacola, Florida, and four grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to Davenport Horticultural Society for the Stampe Lilac Garden.



Lilacs For Forcing Species And Cultivars



The lilacs include about 28 species of deciduous shrubs or small trees native to Asia and southeastern Europe. The lilacs are deciduous with the exception of Syringa sempervirens,* which is evergreen. Species and varieties are distinguished from each other by differences in height, time of blooming, and a variety of flower colors and characteristics as well as by more subtle taxonomic characteristics.

Time of Bloom: Horticulturists divide Syringa species into four groups according to their season of bloom. Group One bloom about May 10 in USDA hardiness zone 6 (the farther north, the later the flowering) and includes: S. affinis, S. oblata, S. X hyacinthiflora (S. oblata X S. vulgaris). Group Two bloom about 10 days after plants in Group One: S. vulgaris, S. X chinensis, S. X persica, S. laciniata, S. pubescens, S. microphylla, S. patula, S. potaninii, S. meyeri, S. julianae. Group Three bloom on or about June 5 in USDA Zone 6: S. X josiflexa, S. X henryi, S. villosa, S. josikaea, S. reflexa, S. X swegiflexa, S. emodi, S. komarowii, S. sweginzowii, S. tometella, S. wolfii, S. yunnanensis. Group Four blooms around June 15 in USDA Zone 6: S. pekinensis, S. reticulata.

The Syringa persica as well as the hybrid S. chinensis and its forms were probably the first lilacs used for forcing, but they were largely abandoned when the vogue of the forced white lilac began for they apparently retained more color when forced than was thought desirable. The plants used in the beginning of the forced white lilac industry (approximately 1850's) for forced white lilac were generally dark-flowered forms of Syringa vulgaris (S. vulgaris var. purpurea and S. vulgaris Charles X.). (McKelvey, 1928).

Today in the Netherlands varieties of S. vulgaris are forced for cut flowers, and the variety 'Madame Florent Stepman' (creamy-yellow in bud, opening white) accounts for 90% of all varieties forced; 'Marie Legraye' (white, creamy-yellow in bud) accounts for 4%; the remainder is comprised of colored varieties such as 'Charles X.' (light purple).

For production of forced lilac as a flowering, dual-purpose, container-grown plant, Dr. Bob Ticknor (Oregon State University, North Willamette Experiment Station) has used Syringa meyeri 'Palabin'. This specie was initially chosen because of its relatively dwarf size and precocious blooming: the plant flowers freely at an early age. Flowers are generally produced when young plants are less than two feet in height, a characteristic that is highly unusual among lilacs. The plant grows slowly, withstands pruning well, and can be kept as low as three feet. It may also be grafted on a standard about four feet high with the crown kept trimmed to a spherical shape. The cold hardiness of this species is often misrepresented as being hardy only to USDA Hardiness Zone 5 or 6; however, in USDA Hardiness Zone 3B (average minimum temperature of -35°F) it has grown to six or seven feet (Kvaalen, 1982). Ticknor is now also evaluating a number of varieties of S. vulgaris to determine their suitability for forcing as a dual-purpose container-grown, flowering plant.

*Editor's Note: This should be Parasyringa sempervirens.



CHEMICAL HOTLINE FOR CONSUMERS Garden Center and plant shop proprietors might like to pass on to their customers a phone number that will give them access to the Chemical Referral Center (CRC), a nation-wide service instituted by the Chemical Manufacturer's Association (CMA), largely as a result of public concern about chemicals in use today. This service is designed to give accurate, quick responses to questions about chemical products and basic chemicals. The number is 1-800-CMA-8200 (Toll Free). Calls will be received on weekdays between 8 am and 9 pm eastern time. Written inquiries may be addressed to CMA/CRC, 2501 M St. NW, Washington, D.C. 20037.

Laws in the United States and many other countries allow the patenting of asexually propagated plant material. (There are also separate laws for seed propagated plant patents). Over the years, a number of lilacs have been patented and we have, through the efforts of Charles Holetich, the full list of them. Plant patents run out after 17 years so all those above the line in the list below are now public property unless an extension has been worked out between the originator and propagators. None of the lilacs on the list with a date of 1975 or later can be propagated for commercial sale without permission of, and in most cases, payment of a royalty to the originator. For example, there is a 20 cent per plant royalty on 'Agincourt Beauty' and 'Slater's Elegance'. The royalty agreement will stop in 1992. With the new tissue culture propagation methods, it is economically feasible to consider patenting any asexually propagated plant that is going to have a large yearly sale.

Syringa

<u>U.S. PLANT PATENT NO.*</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>CULTIVAR NAME</u>
754	Aug. 26, 1947	'Clarke's Giant'
768	Dec. 16, 1947	'Esther Staley'
831	Apr. 12, 1949	'Pink Spray'
832	Apr. 12, 1949	'Purple Heart'
837	May 17, 1949	'Splendour'
937	June 13, 1950	'Sunset'
946	June 13, 1950	'Purple Glory'
1086	Apr. 22, 1952	'Edward J. Gardner'
1108	June 24, 1952	'Primrose'
1128	Sept. 16, 1952	'Sweetheart'

1238	Jan. 5, 1954	'Lavender Lady'
1242	Jan. 19, 1954	'Sensation'
1443	Jan. 3, 1956	'Mrs. R.L. Gardner'
2444	Jan. 3, 1956	'Jessie Gardner'
2076	Aug. 1, 1961	'Frank Paterson'
2204	Dec. 25, 1962	'Stropkey Variegated'
2614	Mar. 22, 1966	'Dappled Dawn'
2744	May 30, 1967	'Sierra Snow'

3694	May 15, 1975	'Agincourt Beauty'
3695	May 15, 1975	'Slater's Elegance'
3885	Aug. 15, 1976	'Heather Haze'
3892	Aug. 15, 1976	'Sweet Charity'
3893	Aug. 15, 1976	'Old Lace'
3895	Aug. 15, 1976	'Big Blue'
4009	Jan. 11, 1977	'Lady Uarda'

*) United States Plant Patents are valid for 17 years.

Contacts:

U.S. Department of Commerce
 Patent and Trademark Office
 Assistant Secretary of Commerce & Trademarks
 Washington, DC 20231
 OR
 American Association of Plant Patent Holders
 c/o American Association of Nurserymen
 1250 1st Street NW., Ste 500
 Washington, DC 20005
 Tel. (202) 789-2900

Editor's Note: Continuing the series of vignettes on ILS members that have appeared in various publications, here is part of one about Bill Heard that appeared in the Business Record.

If anyone tried to make a movie about the 60 year career of Bill Heard - and it wouldn't be a bad idea - the script might look like this:

(Slow sweep over Des Moines, angling north to Merle Hay Road in Johnston. Close in on wooded acreage south of Pioneer Hi-Bred International. Scan treetops, and a complex of natural wood buildings. Close-up of a European beech tree, and next to it an older man in a plaid shirt and gardening pants. Circle to find him rubbing between his fingers a shiny, maroon leaf).

Voice-over: If met in a forest, Bill Heard might be mistaken for a biologist gathering specimens. But Heard, of Heard Gardens Ltd. in Johnston, would likely be unhappy in an atmosphere of academics. A veteran landscaper and nurseryman, Heard has advised the White House staff on the upkeep of its four-acre lawn for more than a decade. When Rockefeller Center in New York needs dwarf Korean lilacs for display, Heard Gardens fills the order. And when any number of select properties, from Holiday Inns in the Midwest to mansions in Palm Springs, need landscaping, Heard designs the work.

LILACS, LILACS, LILACS

(Overlay, then fade-in of lilacs. Lilacs in pots, lilacs planted).

Voice-over: French hybrids, Korean lilacs, lilacs from the Carpathian Mountains in Yugoslavia. Russian lilacs, Canadian lilacs, Dutch lilacs. In all, Heard has assembled more than 200 varieties of lilacs from all over the world.

(Heard (voice-over): Why lilacs? I'm not sure. It's a good question. . . Lilacs can bring such happiness. You watch children in a garden, and they'll just run up to the lilacs...)

(Lilac footage continuing, a range of colors. Pale yellow, lavender, white)

Voice-over: Heard left his father's operation in 1958 to begin his own nursery and landscaping business here. When his father died seven years later at the age of 92, Heard kept acquiring and growing rare lilacs as a tribute. Today, a mail-

order business in unusual and ordinary lilacs helps take Heard Gardens Ltd. through the lean winter months. But lilacs were not the only things that Heard planted at his nursery. Twenty-seven years ago, he began acquiring rare trees that, now mature, represent one-of-a kind specimens in the Midwest.

WHITE HOUSE WORK

Voice-over: For the past 24 years, Heard and three other horticulturalists selected by the American Association of Nurserymen have traveled to the White House every few months to check up on the health of trees, to diagnose problems and propose remedies. In addition to this voluntary but prestigious duty, Heard is a past president of the Horticulture Research Institute and a regular name in a score of other professional groups. Bob Lederer, executive vice president of the AAN, calls him "a servant of the industry."

(Pause. Cut back to initial footage of Heard by beech tree. Side angle as he walks down among the smaller shrubs, stooping occasionally to turn fronds or check leaves.)

Voice-over: But it is here at his Johnston acres that Heard seems to wield the most influence. Bill has a natural affinity and love for plants... and for people. He's dedicated to those plants and he wants to share that dedication with other people. It sounds funny, but I think he wants every plant to find a good home. You have to understand. . .Plants can't move around

like we can. If you put them somewhere, that's where they are going to stay. So you have to put them in a spot that is good for them, a spot that will take care of them . . . so they can grow.

(Pan back from Heard, taking in horizon lined with trees. Slow sweep around Heard Gardens and fade to black.)



The rows of young lilacs against the back fence bloomed for the first time this spring. Their delicate fragrance drifted into the house and brought with it a vivid image of the blossom-laden lilac bush in front of my parents' farmhouse. The flower heads nodded in the warm breeze, inviting my teenage sisters and me to drape our dresses over them to lightly perfume the fabric before dressing for a special date.

*Arlatha Albright
Columbia, Missouri*

ALL I EVER REALLY NEEDED TO KNOW I LEARNED IN KINDERGARTEN

Robert Fulghum, Kansas City Times

Most of what I really needed to know about how to live, and what to do and how to be, I learned in kindergarten. Wisdom was not at the top of the graduate school mountain, but there in the sandbox at nursery school.

These are the things I learned: Share everything. Play fair. Don't hit people. Put things back where you found them. Clean up your own mess. Don't take things that aren't yours. Say you're sorry when you hurt somebody. Wash your hands before you eat. Flush. Warm cookies and cold milk are good for you. Live a balanced life. Learn some and think some and draw and paint and sing and dance and play and work every day some.

Take a nap every afternoon. When you go out into the world, watch for traffic, hold hands, and stick together. Be aware of wonder. Remember the little seed in the plastic cup. The roots go down and the plant goes up and nobody knows how or why, but we are all like that.

Goldfish and hamsters and white mice and even the little seed in the plastic cup - they all die. And so do we.

And then remember the book about Dick and Jane and the first word you learned, the biggest word of all: LOOK. Everything you need to know is in there somewhere. The Golden Rule and love and basic sanitation. Ecology and politics and sane living.

Think of what a better world it would be if we all - the whole world - had cookies and milk about 3 o'clock every afternoon and then lay down with our blankets for a nap, if we had a basic policy in our nation and other nations to always put things back where we found them and cleaned up our own messes. And it is still true, no matter how old you are, when you go out into the world, it is best to hold hands and stick together.

LILAC SOCIETY MEMBERS RECOGNIZED

Fran and Bill Bickelhaupt's work with lilacs in Iowa was recognized in the April-May 1987 issue of Modern Maturity, the magazine published by the American Association of Retired Persons. The article was accompanied by a nice four-color picture of the Bickelhaupt's among their lilacs which we can't reproduce but we can repeat what was said about Fran and Bill. (P.S. Thanks to Don Wedge for bringing the article to our attention).



A FINE WAY TO SAY THANKS!

Converting their 13-acre backyard into an arboretum was a big step for Bill and Fran Bickelhaupt, but it seemed the natural way to say thanks to their home town of Clinton, Iowa, where they'd prospered during their working years. Determined to do it properly, the Bickelhaupt's took botany classes, became experts on local plants and trees, then opened up their garden as a living classroom, where nature lovers come to study or just watch the flowers grow. Clinton has returned the compliment with an award from Mount St. Clare College, acknowledging the couple's hard work and dedication to their local community.

REGIONAL VICE-PRESIDENTS

Region 1 Northeast - ME., NH., VT., MA., CT., and RI.
Dan Cohen, Box 71, Sheffield, VT 05866.

Region 2 Atlantic - NJ., NY., and PA.
John Carvill, 138 Old Loudon Rd., Latham, NY 12110

Region 3 South - DC., DE., MD. south and west to the Mississippi River
Elsie Kara, Rt. 1, Box 604-5, Anthony, FL 32617

Region 4 Central - OH., IN., IL., MI., and WI
William Horman, Box 8784, Detroit, MI 48224

Region 5 West - MN., IA., ND., SD., NE., MT., and WY.
Max Peterson, Rt. 1, Box 273, Ogallala, NE 69153

Region 6 Northwest - Alaska, WA., OR., and ID.
Vacant

Region 7 Pacific - CA.
Louis C. Erickson, 5229 Bardwell Ave., Riverside, CA 92506

Region 8A Southwest Mountains - NV., UT., CO., AZ., and NM.
Andrew Pierce, Denver Botanical Garden, 909 York St., Denver, CO 80206.

Region 8B South Central - KS., MO., OK., AR., TX., and LA.
Vacant.

**Region 9 Eastern Canada - Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick,
Prince Edward Island, Quebec and Ontario**
George Kidd, 62 Steeple Hill Cres, R.R. 7, Nepean, Ontario, Canada K2H 7V2

**Region 10 Western Canada - Manitoba, Saskatchewan, Alberta, British Columbia,
North West Territory and Yukon Territory.**
Roger Vick, Curator, Devonian Botanic Garden, University of Alberta,
Edmonton, Alberta T6G 2E9

Region 11 - Members at Large
Vacant.